



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8574



Offered by:

REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147th Dist.

REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6040

File No. 550

Cal. No. 339

"AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE COMMISSION ON CAPITOL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION TO DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR ADDING STATUES TO THE STATE CAPITOL AND ESTABLISHING THE STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 4b-60 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

5 (a) There shall be a State Commission on Capitol Preservation and
6 Restoration to consist of twelve members to be appointed as follows:
7 Two members shall be appointed by the Governor, two by the speaker
8 of the House of Representatives, two by the president pro tempore of
9 the Senate, one by the House minority leader, one by the Senate
10 minority leader, two members of the Joint Committee on Legislative
11 Management, one appointed by each of the chairmen of said committee,
12 and one member of the Historic Preservation Council appointed by its

13 chairperson. The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the
14 commissioner's designee, shall be an ex-officio member of the
15 commission and shall attend its meetings. Vacancies on the commission
16 shall be filled by the original appointing authority for the unexpired
17 portion of the term. The members shall serve without compensation for
18 their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary
19 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The commission
20 shall meet at least quarterly, and more often on the call of the chairman
21 or on the written request of a majority of the members. The commission
22 may designate subcommittees to carry out its functions. Any member
23 who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or fails to attend fifty per
24 cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to
25 have resigned.

26 (b) The commission: (1) Shall undertake a continuing review and
27 study of the State Capitol building and grounds, with a view to
28 developing a master plan for the preservation and restoration of the
29 Capitol, including necessary structural changes, consistent with the
30 original historical character of the building, with due regard being given
31 to enhancing the interior and exterior beauty of the building, making
32 better use of existing space and reducing public safety hazards; (2) shall
33 implement the process for identifying and commissioning additional
34 statues to be added to the exterior of the State Capitol building
35 developed by the State Historical Commission pursuant to section 3 of
36 this act; (3) may consult with state, federal or private agencies with
37 respect [thereto] to the duties set forth in this subsection, and
38 disseminate information on its activities; and [(3)] (4) shall report on its
39 activities to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management annually
40 or as often as the committee shall direct. The Department of
41 Administrative Services shall provide professional staff assistance to the
42 commission when available. If such assistance cannot be provided
43 within a reasonable time, the commission may, with the approval of the
44 Joint Committee on Legislative Management, retain technical advisors
45 to assist in reviewing project plans and work.

46 (c) The commission is authorized to accept gifts, donations and grants
47 from the federal government or other public or private sources for the
48 purpose of such preservation and restoration.

49 (d) The Joint Committee on Legislative Management may undertake
50 capital expenditure programs for which capital funds are authorized, in
51 connection with such preservation and restoration, including, but not
52 limited to, to commission additional statues using the process
53 implemented by the State Commission on Capitol Preservation and
54 Restoration under subsection (c) of this section. Such programs shall be
55 carried out by the committee, pursuant to plans and specifications
56 approved by the commission and in accordance with the bidding
57 procedures in part II of chapter 60. The commission shall adopt
58 regulations establishing basic artistic standards in keeping with the
59 original historical character of the Capitol to assist the committee in the
60 preparation of plans and specifications.

61 (e) The commission shall be an independent body within the
62 Legislative Department for administrative purposes only.

63 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than February 1, 2026, the State
64 Historical Commission shall (1) develop a plan for the installation of
65 exterior placards or other signage around the exterior of the State
66 Capitol building to provide a written historical explanation of the
67 various statues and other markers on the exterior of the State Capitol
68 building for the public, and (2) submit such plan to the State
69 Commission on Capitol Preservation and Restoration and the Joint
70 Committee on Legislative Management. The State Commission on
71 Capitol Preservation and Restoration shall make recommendations
72 concerning implementation of such plan to the Joint Committee on
73 Legislative Management.

74 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established a State
75 Historical Commission, which shall be an independent body within the
76 Legislative Department for administrative purposes only. The
77 commission shall examine and make recommendations to the

78 legislative, executive and judicial branches on questions of
79 memorialization and commemoration related to Connecticut and
80 United States history.

81 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members: (1) One
82 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who is a
83 representative of CT Humanities; (2) one appointed by the majority
84 leader of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of the
85 Connecticut Library Association; (3) one appointed by the president pro
86 tempore of the Senate, who is a representative of the Connecticut
87 Democracy Center; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the
88 Senate, who is a representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal
89 Nation; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of
90 Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut Museum of
91 Culture and History; (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the
92 Senate, who is a representative of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of
93 Connecticut; (7) two appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a
94 representative of the Freeman Center for History and Community, Inc.;
95 (8) the Chief Court Administrator, or a designee; (9) the State Historian;
96 (10) the State Librarian; and (11) the State Historic Preservation Officer.
97 Any member of the commission appointed under subdivisions (1) to (6),
98 inclusive, of this subsection may be a member of the General Assembly.

99 (c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later
100 than September 1, 2025. Appointed members of the commission shall
101 serve for three-year terms which shall commence on the date of
102 appointment. Members shall continue to serve until their successors are
103 appointed.

104 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
105 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the commission
106 from among the members of the commission. Such chairperson shall
107 schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not
108 later than September 15, 2025.

109 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

110 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government
111 administration shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

112 (f) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
113 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the
114 balance of the unexpired term.

115 (g) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
116 transaction of any business.

117 (h) The members of the commission shall serve without
118 compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
119 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
120 their duties.

121 (i) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: To
122 (1) issue reports and recommendations to all three branches of
123 government concerning historical questions of memorialization and
124 commemoration related to Connecticut and United States history, either
125 upon the request of any executive, legislative or judicial department,
126 board, commission or other agency of the state or upon its own
127 initiative, including, but not limited to, developing the process required
128 under subsection (j) of this section; (2) obtain from any executive,
129 legislative or judicial department, board, commission or other agency of
130 the state such assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out
131 the purposes of this section; (3) accept any gift, donation or bequest for
132 the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (4)
133 perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry
134 out the duties described in this section.

135 (j) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commission shall (1) develop a
136 process for identifying and commissioning additional statues to be
137 added to the exterior of the State Capitol building that reflect the
138 diversity, character and accomplishments of the state, and (2) submit a
139 report detailing such process to the State Commission on Capitol
140 Preservation and Restoration for implementation. Thereafter, the

141 commission shall update such process as often as it deems necessary,
142 and submit any revisions to the process to the State Commission on
143 Capitol Preservation and Restoration.

144 (k) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
145 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
146 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint
147 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
148 matters relating to government administration. Such report shall
149 include, but need not be limited to, a summary of the activities of the
150 commission during the prior year and any policy changes and
151 amendments to the general statutes necessary to implement the
152 recommendations of the commission."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4b-60
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

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